

**REMARKS**

In response the Notice of Abandonment dated August 27, 2003 applicants hereby file a Request for Continued Examination pursuant to MPEP 711.03 (c) to revive the application which was unintentionally abandoned for failure to timely file an Appeal Brief. The entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of the RCE was unintentional.

Accompanying this RCE is an amendment of the claims responsive to the last office action preceding the notice of abandonment. In that action, the examiner indicated that claims 19 and 70 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 19 and 70 have been so rewritten and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims have been either cancelled without prejudice or are dependent, ultimately, on claims 19 or 70.

It is believe that this amendment is fully responsive and serves to place this application in condition for allowance.

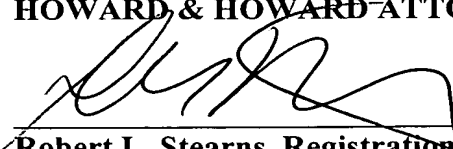
The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 08-2789.

Respectfully submitted,

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

November 26, 2003

Date

  
**Robert L. Stearns, Registration No. 36,937**  
The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite #101  
39400 Woodward Avenue  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-5151  
(248) 723-0427


Appln. No.: 09/981,414

Amdt. dated November 26, 2003

Reply to Office action of August 27, 2003

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this **Amendment** for U.S. Serial No.: 09/981,414 filed October 17, 2001 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as ~~First Class~~ Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Mail Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on November 26, 2003, Express Mail Label No. EV146587801US.

  
Karri M. Chamberlin